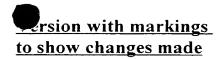
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The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

- 1. (Amended) A method for transmitting a data stream between a host controller and a peripheral device over an extended distance; said method comprising:
- a. feeding a first original, outgoing digital signal from a host controller to a local expander unit;
- [b. optionally converting said outgoing digital signals into a converted outgoing signal having a format suitable for transmission over extended distances;]
- <u>b.</u> [c.] transmitting [either] said outgoing digital signal [or said converted outgoing signal,] as a outgoing transmission signal, over a signal distribution system;
 - c. [d.] receiving said outgoing transmission signal at a remote expander unit;
- [e. optionally converting said outgoing transmission signal to said first original outgoing digital signal;]
- <u>d.</u> [f.] delivering said first original outgoing digital signal from said remote expander to at least one peripheral device;
- <u>e.</u> [g.] receiving, at said remote expander, a reply digital signal from said peripheral device;
- [h. optionally converting said reply digital signal into a converted reply signal having a format suitable for transmission over extended distances;]
- 20 <u>f.</u> [i.] transmitting said reply digital signal [or said converted reply signal] as a reply transmission signal over said signal distribution system;
 - g. [j.] receiving said reply transmission signal at said local expander;
 - [k. optionally converting said reply transmission signal to said original reply digital signal;]
 - <u>h.</u> [l.] storing said reply digital signal as a stored reply digital signal until the receipt of a subsequent original, outgoing digital signal from said host controller, which subsequent signal is the same as, or similar to, said first original outgoing digital signal; and
 - <u>i.</u> [m.] forwarding said stored reply digital signal to said host controller in response to said subsequent original outgoing digital signal.
- 2. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said data stream is a time relevant data stream.
 - 3. A method as in claim 2 wherein said digital signals conform to the USB Specification and represent isochronous data.

- 4. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said method provides a method for transmission of isochronous data according to the USB Specification wherein isochronous data is transmitted from a peripheral device and is received by a host controller, said method comprising:
 - a. transmitting a request for isochronous data from a host controller to a local expander;
 - b. forwarding said request for isochronous data from said local expander to a remote expander over a signal distribution system;
 - c. delivering said forwarded request for isochronous data to at least one peripheral device;
 - d. transmitting the requested isochronous data from said peripheral device to said remote expander;
 - e. forwarding said requested isochronous data from said remote expander to said local expander over said signal distribution system;
 - f. storing said requested isochronous data in a packet buffer at said local expander;
 - g. transmitting a subsequent request for isochronous data from said host controller to said local expander;
 - h. receiving said subsequent request for isochronous data at said local expander; and
 - retrieving the stored isochronous data from said local expander;
 - II. delivering said stored isochronous data to said host controller;
 - III. forwarding said subsequent request for isochronous data from said local expander to said remote expander over said signal distribution system; and
 - IV. repeating steps (c) through (h) for said subsequent request and any further subsequent requests for isochronous data.
- 5. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said method provides a method for transmission of isochronous data according to the USB Specification wherein isochronous data is transmitted from a host controller and is received by a peripheral device, said method comprising:
- a) receiving, at a local expander, an original notification of isochronous a host controller;
- b) forwarding said original notification of isochronous data from said local expander to a remote expander over a signal distribution system;
- c) receiving, at a remote expander, said forwarded original notification of isochronous data:
- d) delivering said forwarded notification of <u>isochronous</u> [asynchronous] data to at least one peripheral device;

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- c) means for sending said stored inbound signal to said host controller in response to said subsequent request.
- 33. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said extended distance exceeds 5 meters.
- 5 34 An apparatus as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said extended distance exceeds 30 meters.
 - 35. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said extended distance is equal to or exceeds 100 meters.
- 36. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said signal distribution system utilizes unshielded twisted pair (UTP) wiring.
 - 37. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said signal distribution system utilizes fibre optic cabling.
 - 38. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said signal distribution system utilizes wireless transmission.
- 15 39. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said host controller is a PC, and said peripheral devices is a camera, a mouse, a keyboard, a monitor or a speaker or speakers.
 - 40. (New) A method for transmitting a data stream between a host controller and a peripheral device over an extended distance; said method comprising:
 - a. feeding a first original, outgoing digital signal from a host controller to a local expander unit;
 - b. converting said outgoing digital signals into a converted outgoing signal having a format suitable for transmission over extended distances;
 - c. transmitting either said outgoing digital signal, as a outgoing transmission signal, over a signal distribution system;
- d. receiving said outgoing transmission signal at a remote expander unit;
 - e. converting said outgoing transmission signal to said first original outgoing digital signal;
 - f. <u>delivering said first original outgoing digital signal from said remote expander to at least one peripheral device;</u>
 - g. receiving, at said remote expander, a reply digital signal from said peripheral device;

- h. converting said reply digital signal into a converted reply signal having a format suitable for transmission over extended distances:
- i. transmitting said converted reply signal as a reply transmission signal over said signal distribution system;
- j. receiving said reply transmission signal at said local expander;
- k. converting said reply transmission signal to said reply digital signal;
- 1. storing said reply digital signal as a stored reply digital signal until the receipt of a subsequent original, outgoing digital signal from said host controller, which subsequent signal is the same as, or similar to, said first original outgoing digital signal; and
- m. forwarding said stored reply digital signal to said host controller in response to said subsequent original outgoing digital signal.